

Holy Communion

Christmas Day
Monday, December 25, 2023
10 a.m.

Exploring the promise of God for all

Welcome to Central Lutheran Church.
You are welcome, no exceptions.

Here are a few notes you might find helpful for worship:

Bold print indicates responses spoken by all. Masks are welcomed.
Congregational hymns are found printed in this bulletin or in the red
hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

PRELUDE

“In Quiet Joy (Good Christian Friends, Rejoice)” Setting, Marcel Dupré

(At the sound of the bell, please stand)

Gathering

OPENING SENTENCES

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;

**authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful
Counsellor,**

Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually,

and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his
kingdom.

**He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness
from this time onwards and forevermore.**

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

“Love Has Come”

Hymn 292



*The Holy Spirit gathers
us in unity on this first
day of the week.*

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

God of all creation, the coming of your light into our world has brightened the weary hearts with peace. Call us out of the shadows and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

Word

FIRST READING

Isaiah 52:7-10

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

⁸Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the Lord to Zion.

⁹Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the Lord has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰The Lord has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



*God speaks to us in
scripture reading,
preaching, and song.*



GOSPEL

John 1:1-14

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON

(Please stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

Hymn 286

“Your Little Ones, Dear Lord”

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, we offer prayers for neighbors, strangers and the world God loves...

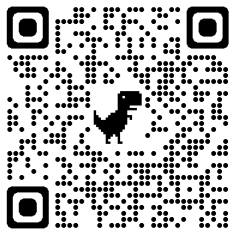
Each petition concludes:

Hear us, O God,

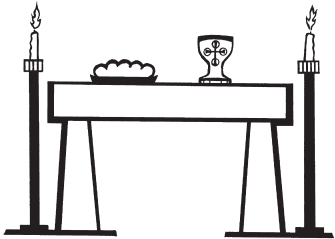
Your mercy is great.

...Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace.

Amen.



This year's Christmas appeal is for the ministry of the Central Restoration Center. There are offering envelopes available at the sanctuary doors for your special Christmas offering. You can also use this QR code to make an online gift for this remarkable, shared ministry by choosing "Restoration Ctr" in the Fund line.



God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

All are invited to receive these gifts of God.

Children are welcome to come forward and receive communion or a blessing.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

(Please be seated)

MUSICAL OFFERING

Meal

(Please stand)

PRESENTATION HYMN

“What Child Is This”

Hymn 296

Stanza 1

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:...
...Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

(Please be seated)

COMMUNION

(Please stand)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

And now may the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,
strengthen you and keep you in God’s grace.
Amen.

Sending

BENEDICTION

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary,
the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the determination of the magi,
and the peace of the Christ child.
Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son,
and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.
Amen.



*God blesses us and sends
us for shared mission in
our shared world.*

SENDING HYMN

Hymn 270

“Hark, the Herald Angels Sing”

DISMISSAL

Go rejoicing. Christ is born!
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Hail this Brightest Day of Days”

Setting, Johann Sebastian Bach

Serving Today

Pastor Stephanie Friesen	<i>preacher</i>
Jack Friesen	<i>assisting minister/reader</i>
Isaac Drewes	<i>organist</i>
Mark Kieffer	<i>video/sound</i>

Thanks to:

Sacristans, Usher, Hospitality Ministry, and Décor Teams.

Chancel flowers this week are given in memory or honor of loved ones by various donors. See the *Spirit* for more information.

If you wish to donate flowers, please contact Judy Korogi at 612-788-1288.

Portions of the liturgy are from SundaysandSeasons.com

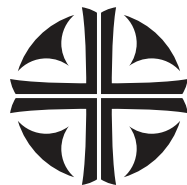
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